

Department of Theology, Bellarmine University

Professor Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty's "Ultimate Questions" Class (February 9,14, 16, 2017)

Monday, February 9, 2017 (12-1:15 p. m.) in Centro 081 - "Muslim-Christian Interaction in the Early Islamic Period," presented by Dr. Brad Bowman, Assistant Professor of History and Middle East and Islamic Studies at the University of Louisville.

Professor Brad Bowman will be exploring some of social and political interactions between Christians and Muslims in the seventh century CE. In particular, this talk will discuss Muslim attitudes toward Christian churches, shrines, and monastic communities in that pivotal first century of contact. Judging from the agreements and pacts between Christians and Muslims throughout this period, initiated by the Prophet Muhammad himself, the entry of Islam into the religious environment was characterized by a respect for this great variety of Christian groups as well as their holy places.

Monday, February 14, 2017 (11 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.) 12-1:15 in Hilary's - "Islam's Contributions to Western Civilization," presented by **Dr. M. Saleem Seyal**, cardiologist who is passionate about interreligious harmony and has given many talks on Islamic calligraphy and Islamic Mysticism.

In general, lack of knowledge about many significant contributions made by the Islamic world to the progress of humanity continues to persist. It is well-documented and widely acknowledged in academic circles that Islamic Civilization preserved the Greco-Roman knowledge and contributed significantly to the fields of mathematics, geometry, physics, chemistry, medicine and many other disciplines. The "Dark Age" of Europe was, in fact, the "Golden Age of Islam" when Islamic calligraphy, art of illumination, arabesque, poetry and literature flourished in many Muslim lands, and beautiful architectural structures and edifices were constructed throughout the Islamic world.

Thursday, February 16, 2017 (11 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.) 12-1:15 in Centro 081- "A History of Tolerance: Muslim Kings and Hindu Subjects in India," presented by **Dr. John McLeod**, Professor of History at the University of Louisville

In this illustrated talk, Professor John McLeod will look at three examples of religious interaction in the long history of India, which has been a land of many faiths for millennia: in the Delhi sultanate in the fourteenth century, the Mughal empire in the sixteenth and seventeenth, and the state of Hyderabad in the early twentieth. In all of these, largely non-Muslim populations flourished under Islamic kings, with lasting religious and cultural results.



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